

On Top Of The News

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Friday, March 19, 2010

APNewsBreak:



In this file photo taken Jan. 20, 2010, Gov. Mark Sanford delivers his last State of the State address to the joint legislative session at the Statehouse in Columbia, S.C. Sanford has agreed to pay \$74,000 in fines to resolve dozens of charges that he violated state ethics laws with his campaign spending and travel, including a taxpayer-funded rendezvous with his Argentine mistress, the State Ethics Commission said Thursday, March 18, 2010.

Associated Press
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INSIDE TODAY

SPORTS NEWS

MUCHO DANERO



Murray State forward Danero Thomas runs downcourt after making the game-winning basket against Vanderbilt in the closing seconds of an NCAA first-round college basketball game in San Jose, Calif., Thursday, March 18, 2010. Murray State won 66-65.

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Obama postpones Asia trip to focus on health care



JULIE PACE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama has postponed his trip to Asia until June so he can stay in Washington for a possible Sunday vote on his health care overhaul.

Continued on Page 4

President Barack Obama shakes hands with lawmakers after he signs the HIRE Act jobs bill in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Thursday, March 18, 2010. Pictured left to right: Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich., Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif.; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.; Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.; Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao, R-La.; Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo.; Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont.

Associated Press

Chaos marks Iraq election vote tally

KATARINA KRATOVAC
SAMEER N. YACOUB

Associated Press Writers

BAGHDAD (AP) — Dozens of Iraqi journalists waited hours for results in Iraq's election. What they finally got was a single CD containing all the information and instructions to make copies themselves, prompting a mad dash to the nearest Internet cafe where they paid \$1.20 each to find out who was ahead in the ballot count.

It was the latest example of the ongoing chaos in Iraq's postelection count, which has fueled uncertainty and allegations of fraud. Questions about the vote's validity could undermine U.S. ambitions to set a standard for democracy in the Middle East.

Continued on Page 6



Faraj al-Haydari, chairman of the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), left, and member Qassim al-Aboudi speak to reporters in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, March 18, 2010. The partial results, released on Thursday by Iraq's election commission, were based on 89 percent of ballots counted. Al-Maliki is winning in seven of Iraq's 18 provinces, while Allawi leads in five.

Associated Press

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Retired U.S. general links gays in army to genocide



Retired US General John Sheehan listens during a hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington, DC on Thursday. Sheehan on Thursday said Dutch UN troops defending Srebrenica in the Bosnian war failed to prevent the 1995 genocide partly because their ranks included openly gay soldiers.

AFP/Getty Images/Alex Wong

PAULINE JELINEK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A retired U.S. general says Dutch troops failed to defend against the 1995 genocide in the Bosnian war because the army was weakened, partly because it included openly

gay soldiers.

The comment by John Sheehan, a former NATO commander who retired from the military 1997, shocked some at a Senate Armed Services Committee, where Sheehan spoke in opposition to a proposal to allow gays

to serve openly in the U.S. military. Committee Chairman Sen. Carl Levin told Sheehan he was "totally off-target."

Sheehan said European militaries deteriorated after the collapse of the Soviet Union and focused on peacekeeping because "they did not believe the Germans were going to attack again or the Soviets were coming back."

Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and other nations believed there was no longer a need for an active combat capability in the militaries, he said. "They declared a peace dividend and made a conscious effort to socialize their military — that includes the unionization of their militaries, it includes open homosexuality." Dutch troops serving as U.N. peacekeepers and tasked with defending the town of Srebrenica in 1995 were an example of a force that became ill-equipped for war. "The battalion was

understrength, poorly led, and the Serbs came into town, handcuffed the soldiers to the telephone poles, marched the Muslims off, and executed them," Sheehan said.

"That was the largest massacre in Europe since World War II," he said of the killing of some 8,000 Bosnian Muslim boys and men after Serbian forces captured the town. Dutch Defense Ministry spokesman Roger Van de Wetering dismissed the retired general's claims as nonsense. "For us it is unbelievable that a man of this rank is stating this nonsense, because that is what it is," Van de Wetering said in a telephone interview.

"The whole operation in Srebrenica and the drama that took place over there was thoroughly investigated by Dutch and international authorities and none of these investigations has ever concluded or suggested a link between homosexual

military personnel and the things that happened over there. I do not know on what facts this is based, but for us it is total nonsense." On the Dutch attitude to gays in the military, he said: "For us it is very simple: Every man or woman that meets the criteria physically and mentally is welcome to serve in our armed forces regardless of (religious) belief, sexual preference or whatever."

Levin, a Senate Democrat, appeared incredulous at the general's remarks. "Did the Dutch leaders tell you it (the fall of Srebrenica) was because there were gay soldiers there?" he asked. "Yes," Sheehan said.

"They included that as part of the problem." He said the former chief of staff of the Dutch army had told him. Levin said it may be the case that some militaries have focused on peacekeeping to the detriment of their war-fighting skills. □



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SC governor to pay \$74K in ethics fines



In this file photo taken June 13, 2006 S.C. Gov. Mark Sanford smiles as he is joined by his wife, Jenny, after he won the Republican gubernatorial nomination in Columbia, S.C. Charleston County Family Court Judge Jocelyn Cate issued a final order Thursday, March 18, 2010, that made Sanford the first sitting South Carolina governor to get a divorce.

Associated Press

returned to tearfully confess a yearlong affair with a woman he later told The Associated Press was his soul mate.

The agreement came within minutes of a judge's decision Thursday afternoon finalizing Sanford's divorce.

Sanford was considered a potential 2012 presidential candidate until the bombshells about the affair. Ensuing AP investigations questioned his

use of state, commercial and private airplanes and bruised his image as a penny-pinching politician who once required staff to use both sides of Post-it notes.

After those investigations, the ethics panel charged him with improperly buying first- and business-class airline tickets, violating a state law requiring lowest-cost travel; improperly using state-owned aircraft for travel to political and personal events, including a stop at a discount hair salon; and improperly reimbursing himself with campaign cash. Among the violations the commission alleged were:

— approving the purchase of four first- and business-class commercial airline tickets for a June 2008 trip during which he met with his mistress in Argentina.

— personal use of state-owned aircraft for trips such as the birthday party of a campaign contributor in Aiken.

— reimbursing himself nearly \$3,000 using campaign contributions, including about \$900 for expenses to attend a Republican Governors

MEG KINNARD

Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford has agreed to pay \$74,000 in fines to resolve dozens of charges that he violated state ethics laws with his campaign spending and travel, including a taxpayer-funded rendezvous with his Argentine mistress, the State Ethics Commission said Thursday.

The commission brought the 37 civil charges against the Republican last year. Sanford, who is term-limited and will leave office in January, still could face criminal charges. Sanford said in a statement he thinks he would have been vindicated if the commission had heard the case, but didn't want to continue what he called "an endless media circus."

Scrutiny of Sanford's travel started over the summer, when the then-married governor vanished for five days after telling some staff he was going hiking on the Appalachian Trail. He was actually in Argentina, and he

Association meeting in Miami and a hunting trip in Ireland several days later.

Some of the allegations about Sanford's use of campaign funds first were revealed by The State newspaper in Columbia.

Under the agreement, Sanford also agrees to compensate the Ethics Commission nearly \$36,498 for its investigative costs. He also agrees to pay

back:

— \$18,000 to the state Departments of Commerce for first- and business-class airfare;

— \$7,792 to the Division of Aeronautics and \$1,003 for personal use of state-owned aircraft. In addition, Sanford says he will pay \$2,941 to his own campaign account as a reimbursement for personal use of campaign funds. □

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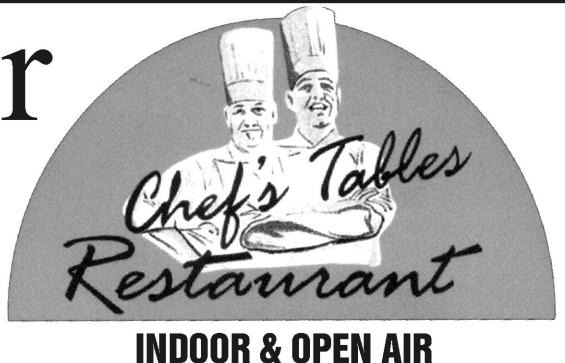
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Robert Gibbs, White House Press Secretary, speaks to the media during the daily briefing in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington Thursday, March 18, 2010.

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OBAMA

Continued from Front Page

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Thursday the president is disappointed and regrets having to delay his visits to Indonesia and Australia but has told the leaders of those nations that health care is a crucial priority.

"The president believes right now, the place for him to be is in Washington seeing this through," Gibbs said.

Obama had already delayed the trip to Indonesia and Australia, pushing back a Thursday departure until Sunday so he could help Democrats in Congress rally

last-minute votes for the plan. White House staff had tried to find a way to push the trip back another few days, but by Thursday morning, it was clear the only way the president could still travel to Australia and Indonesia was if he left early Sunday afternoon. With the House likely to hold a vote on the health care bill sometime Sunday, Gibbs said, "very little padding remained."

Obama made the final decision to delay the trip during a brief Oval Office meeting Thursday morning with top aides, including chief of staff Rahm Emanuel and national security adviser James Jones.

House Democrats believe they are on track to vote Sunday on a \$940 billion health care bill that will expand coverage to millions. If the bill passes, the Senate will begin considering changes to the bill next week. Democratic lawmakers welcomed the president's decision to stay in town.

Said the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, "He wants to be here for the history."

"He may have to twist some arms," said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, a Democrat. "He may have to talk to some people. His personal presence helps."

The president's trip had originally been scheduled to coincide with his daughters' spring break from school. After the first delay, the White House announced the president's family would no longer accompany him overseas and the president's trip would be shortened by a day as aides sought to tamp down criticism that he was taking a family vacation as the health care debate reached its crucial final stages.

The trip to Indonesia was to be a homecoming of sorts for the president, who spent four years in the world's largest Muslim country as a boy when his mother married an Indonesian man. A statue of Obama as a 10-year-old boy has been erected at the elementary school he attended.

Obama also had been scheduled to deliver his first address to the Muslim world since his historic speech in Cairo last year and had been scheduled to meet with Indonesian President Susilio Bambang Yudhoyono.

Obama was to address Australia's parliament and meet with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, with whom he shares a close relationship on the issues of climate change and the war in Afghanistan.

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SITE



This undated file image provided by the SITE Intelligence Group shows Colleen LaRose, an American woman from Pennsylvania indicted and accused of using the Internet to recruit jihadist fighters and help terrorists overseas. LaRose is due in court Thursday, March 18, 2010, on charges that could bring a life sentence. LaRose, 46, is charged in a global conspiracy to kill a Swedish cartoonist who had offended Muslims.

Associated Press

MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A woman accused of trolling the Internet as Jihad Jane and agreeing to marry a suspected terrorist and kill a Swedish artist targeted by radical Muslims cooperated with authorities, a congressman said.

Colleen LaRose pleaded not guilty Thursday to the four-count indictment at a brief arraignment in federal court in Philadelphia. The hearing marked her first public appearance after six months of detention following her unannounced arrest in October. She wore a green prison jumpsuit and corn rows in her blond hair and smiled warmly at her public defenders when she entered the courtroom. The judge set a May 3 trial date on charges in the indictment, unsealed last week.

LaRose, 46, was accused of conspiring with fighters overseas and pledging to commit murder in the name of a Muslim holy war, or jihad. She was arrested Oct. 15 returning to Philadelphia from Europe and was swiftly jailed.

Rep. Charles Dent said he learned through meetings with

US rep: US Jihad Jane terror suspect cooperated

the FBI and other briefings that LaRose had been cooperating with authorities pursuing the international probe, who arrested seven people in Ireland last week. LaRose lived in his district.

"I have a sense they learned as much as they could from her, and when that happens, you

move forward with the criminal complaint," Dent, who serves on intelligence and homeland security committees, told The Associated Press. "Will she be more cooperative in the future? I hope so." The FBI and the U.S. attorney's office declined comment on Dent's remarks. □

LaRose's public defender did not immediately return a telephone message left by the AP.

The indictment was filed March 4 and made public five days later, after Irish authorities detained an American woman, her Algerian husband and five others. □

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Iraqi journalists and representatives of Iraqi political blocs and entities look at screens showing the partial preliminary results in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, March 13, 2010. A coalition led by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki was winning in the all-important capital and a Shiite province in the south, according to a partial tally of election results released Saturday.

Associated Press

IRAQ VOTE

Continued from Front Page

Preliminary results from Iraq's 18 provinces have trickled out daily. Generally they're released on TV screens for reporters to write

down, although recently they've been handed out on CDs.

The piecemeal tallying is in stark contrast to the December 2005 parliament elections and last year's

provincial vote, when results came in a more orderly fashion with a steady stream of updates. The Independent High Electoral Commission said out-of-country voting, increased anti-fraud checks and a more complex ballot made the process more difficult.

International observers have lauded Iraqi officials for their overall performance but some have said little attention was paid to how much time the count would actually take.

There has also been conflicting information about when results would be released, if released at all.

One day, results were posted only to be pulled back minutes later and described as "errors." When pressed

why the results take so long, a commission official began to respond, only to break off to take a call on his cell phone from his mother. So far, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's coalition is leading in the tight race, with 89 percent of the ballots counted.

Thursday's results show his State of Law with roughly 40,000-vote lead over his closest competitor, former prime minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite who heads the Iraqiya coalition. Al-Maliki also was ahead in more provinces — seven to Allawi's five—an important factor because parliament seats are apportioned by province.

However, the eventual winner is unlikely to win the majority required to rule alone, possibly leading to months of political wrangling to form a government as U.S. forces draw down.

Electoral officials also blame the delays on the mad scramble to put these elections together after lawmakers waited until the very last minute to pass the law needed to carry out the vote.

"The time given to us was very short. So the presence of complaints and problems here and there does not undermine the process," IHEC spokesman Qassim al-Aboudi said.

But as the process has drawn out, so have the fraud allegations.

Officials from Allawi's group have said some ballot boxes were chucked in dumpsters.

They also said some local counting centers failed to post their results as required and that millions of fake ballots were imported from Iran.

IHEC officials have said a handful of election workers were fired for entering data too slowly into computers — prompting skepticism from Allawi's supporters.

"You don't fire someone for entering things slowly. You may take them off the terminal, but you don't fire them," said Iraqiya candidate Rend Al-Rahim. The prime minister's coalition also charged the commission's counting center with doctoring the numbers, demanding a full recount.

Iraqi and international observers, however, say the allegations don't represent a large enough slice of votes to shake the final count.

A Western official in Baghdad with knowledge of the process said nothing has indicated widespread fraud. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Three independent Iraqi groups agree. Shams, Tammuz and Al Nazaha monitored the vote with 14,600 observers and have said it was fair.

Peter Galbraith, who served recently as the top-ranking American in the U.N. mission in Kabul, said the Iraqi system has enough checks and balances with rival parties monitoring each other.

"The fraud in Afghanistan was so massive it was immediately obvious," said Galbraith, who was fired in September after claiming the top U.N. official in Afghanistan was not aggressive enough in preventing fraud in Afghanistan's first-round presidential vote.

Iraqis who've seen it all since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion were embarrassed by the disarray.

"Such delays will shake our confidence in the political process," Baghdad resident Ahmed Ghalid said.

Election officials appeared to have at least learned one lesson. During a Thursday news conference, al-Aboudi's first words were: "We will have enough CDs for everyone today." □

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U.S., Russia clash over startup of Iran nuke plant

ROBERT BURNS,
AP National Security Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and her Russian counterpart clashed openly Thursday over the planned startup this summer of Iran's first, Russian-built nuclear power plant, highlighting a split in views over how to steer Iran away from nuclear weapons.

Clinton did not criticize the long-delayed project directly but said the Obama administration is opposed to the timing of the nuclear plant's startup. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announced the summer startup plans on Thursday, shortly after Clinton arrived for a two-day visit.

The nuclear plant is an example of Russian-Iranian economic ties and technical cooperation, on terms that have long made the United States uncomfortable. It was a background issue during a difficult period in U.S.-Russian relations last year and in the ongoing U.S.-led effort to bring new United Nations economic penalties against Iran over suspicions that part of its nuclear program is aimed at building a bomb. Putin's announcement adds another complication to the already long list of issues on which Clinton and her Russian hosts don't agree. Clinton is seeing Putin on Friday.

At a news conference with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov after talks on a wide range of issues, Clinton told reporters that Iran, while entitled to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, must reassure the world that it is not trying to build a nuclear weapon.

"In the absence of those reassurances, we think it would be premature to go forward with any project at this time, because we want to send an unequivocal message to the Iranians," she said.

Lavrov forcefully asserted that, whatever the U.S. concerns, his country will finish its work on the Bushehr nuclear power plant shortly.

"The project will be completed," Lavrov said. "We are now in the final stage, and this nuclear power plant will be launched. It will be put into operation, it will be functioning, producing power." He added that the plant will operate under strict compliance with requirements of the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog agency.

Lavrov and Clinton also asserted to reporters that U.S.-Russian negotiations on a new treaty to reduce long-range nuclear weapons are close to completion. The accord would replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, which expired in December. Lavrov said the two sides now are discussing the time and place for President Barack Obama and President Dmitry Medvedev to sign the new deal, which also must be ratified by each country's legislature.

"We are now at the finish line," Lavrov said. Clinton was a bit more circumspect. "We have a saying in the United States: 'Don't count your chickens before they hatch,'" she said. "And that means that we are beginning our discussions about where and when our two presidents will sign the START agreement. But we don't want to get ahead of ourselves. First, our negotiators have to sign on the dotted line, so to speak." A Clinton spokesman, P.J. Crowley, said later that the negotiators were "down to one or two issues" before completing the deal.

Another negotiating session was to be held Friday in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Obama administration has been unsuccessful in pressing Iran to take steps to reassure the world of its nuclear intentions and has pointed to its secret construction of a uranium enrichment plant — disclosed by the West last fall — as evidence that Iran's intentions are not purely peaceful.

Clinton suggested that by endorsing Iran's startup of its

Bushehr power plant, Tehran would get the mistaken impression that the rest of the world accepted its claim that it wants nuclear power only for electricity generation and not to secretly produce nuclear bombs.

Crowley said Clinton's comment was not intended as criticism of Russia's involvement in the Bushehr project, which has been decades in the making.

Russia agrees that Iran must not acquire nuclear weapons, but it has close commercial ties with Tehran and has used its position as a veto-wielding permanent U.N. Security Council member to water down Western-backed sanctions. Lavrov said he and Clinton discussed the prospect of a new U.N. sanctions resolution, but he made clear that Moscow does not see new sanctions as inevitable.

"As for sanctions that might be discussed in the United Nations Security Council, that discussion has not begun yet," Lavrov said.

Asked what Russia was doing to nudge China — which also has veto power in the Security Council — toward accepting the idea of new sanctions against Iran, Lavrov indicated that China has demonstrated that it is willing to live up to its obligations as a nuclear power.

He said China, like the U.S., Russia and other nuclear weapons states, has "a special commitment and obligation" to ensure that nuclear weapons technology does not spread around the world. "Our Chinese partners have never given us any grounds to suspect them of insufficient attention to nonproliferation issues," he said.

Clinton and Lavrov were attending a dinner Thursday with representatives of the European Union and the United Nations — together known as the Quartet — to discuss the recent setbacks in getting Israel and the Palestinians to return to peace negotiations. Clinton



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, speaks as Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov looks on during their news conference after the talks in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, March 18, 2010. Clinton on Thursday opened two days of talks with Russian leaders on nuclear arms control and other security issues, and separately with top international diplomats on the outlook for bringing Israel and the Palestinians back to peace talks.

Associated Press

appeared to be seeking to calm U.S. relations with Israel, which were roiled last week after Israel announced new housing for Jews in east Jerusalem.

The announcement, made during a visit to Israel by Vice President Joe Biden, was seen by the Obama administration as an insult and a repudiation of U.S.

efforts to get Israel to halt construction of additional Jewish settlements.

"Our goals remain the same," Clinton said. "It is to relaunch negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians on a path that will lead to a two-state solution. Nothing has happened that in any way affects our commitment to pursuing that." □



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Holocaust survivor stands by memory of Anne Frank



Berthe Meijer is seen during an interview with the Associated Press at her home in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Friday, March 12, 2010. Meijer, now 71, a former 6-year-old inmate of Bergen Belsen offers a rare glimpse of Anne in the final weeks of her life in the German camp, struggling to keep up her own spirits even as she tried to lift the morale of the smaller children. Meijer's memoir, being published in Dutch later this month, is the first to mention Anne's talent for spinning tales even in the despair of the camp.

Associated Press

TOBY STERLING

Associated Press Writer

AMSTERDAM (AP) — A Holocaust survivor who says she met Anne Frank in a Nazi concentration camp is standing by her story in the face of skepticism from historians, filmmakers and a childhood friend of the diarist.

Berthe Meijer, 71, claims in a memoir to be published in Dutch this month that while she was in Bergen-Belsen as a 6-year-old, she remembers the severely ill Frank trying to cheer up some of the children at the camp by telling them fairy tales.

"On its face, it seems too good to be true," said David Barnouw of the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation, who has studied Frank for three decades and edited the definitive

scholarly publication of her diary.

He said his primary objections to Meijer's story are that Anne would probably have been too weak from hunger and illness to tell stories shortly before her death in March 1945, and it would be an amazing coincidence that Meijer would have a memory about someone who only became well known many years later.

"But you never know," he said. "I don't dare to judge." Anne Frank became one of the most prominent victims of the Holocaust when the diary she kept for two years while in hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam was found after the war and published. Frank died in a 1945 typhus epidemic at Bergen-Belsen, but the exact date is unknown.

Meijer on Thursday rejected criticism from Hannah Pick-Goslar, a friend of Anne Frank's who saw her at Bergen-Belsen and said she was in no condition to tell stories; and from Willy Lindwer, a filmmaker who said he did not include Meijer in his Emmy award winning 1988 documentary about Anne Frank because her testimony was too vague.

"How do they think they can look into my memory?" Meijer said in a telephone interview. Meijer's memoir, "Life After Anne Frank," focuses on how the early trauma of the camp affected Meijer's later life, and "what war does to a human life." It describes the alleged meeting with Frank in an early chapter.

"I make it clear in my book, some things are vague, some things are crystal clear," she said. "For me, the memories are paired with the emotions that went with them."

She said Frank was very ill, but still mustered the strength to tell short fairy tales while lying in the camp barracks. Meijer said she remembers it because the stories gave her a feeling of escape from the horror that surrounded her.

Chris Brooks, Curator of the Shoah Foundation Institute Archive at the University of Southern California, which

preserves testimony of Holocaust survivors, said in an e-mail to the Associated Press it has 43 records of people having seen Anne Frank in Bergen Belsen.

Most of them described her as desperately ill. However, at least one woman who said that Anne Frank was in her barracks also said that orphaned children from the camp were allowed to play there.

Another important witness, Marianne Brandes-Brilleslijper, is cited in the 2007 book "Anne Frank: The Young Writer Who Told the World Her Story" as having said that Anne told jokes and stories to keep up the spirits of several Dutch women in her barracks.

A spokeswoman for publisher De Bezige Bij said the house stands behind Meijer "100 percent."

Suzanne Holtzer said the Bezige Bij is discussing selling publishing rights with publishers in multiple countries, including the United States.

The Anne Frank House Museum says its historians have previously interviewed Meijer and have no reason to doubt her truthfulness — but that her story is unverifiable. Records from Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust memorial authority, show that Meijer was an inmate of Bergen-Belsen for 13 months until it was liberated in April 1945.

They also show the Meijer family lived on Amsterdam's Niersstraat, the same street where Anne attended a Montessori elementary school from 1934 to 1941. Meijer says the two families were friendly acquaintances.

Psychologists say it's conceivable that if Meijer knew Frank before the war, and if she met her again in Bergen Belsen, she could form a lasting memory about it, even at a young age.

Around 140,000 Jews lived in the Netherlands before the 1940-45 Nazi occupation. Of those, 107,000 were deported to Germany and only 5,200 survived. □

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Sudan and Darfur rebel group sign cease-fire

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Sudan's government and a collection of Darfur rebel groups signed a cease-fire Thursday — the second such deal in less than a month with a key rebel faction — opening the way for political negotiations ahead of a full peace agreement.

The Sudanese government now has truces with two major rebel blocs, leaving mainly the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Paris-based Abdelwahid Elnur on the outside — though the history of the conflict has been marked by failed peace agreements.

Arduous negotiations on power and resource sharing, the main demand of the rebels, still lie ahead.

Thursday's truce was with the newly formed Liberation and Justice Movement, an umbrella organization of several smaller rebel groups,

including some who broke away from the SLM.

Ibrahim Gambari, the joint special representative of the U.N. and the African Union in Darfur, told the ceremony that the signing "represents yet another important milestone in the road toward the destination of an all inclusive and comprehensive peace agreement that should usher in durable peace and stability in Darfur."

He warned, however, that the key to the agreement was the commitment of all parties to the implementation.

Sudan's Vice President Ali Osman Taha vowed at the ceremony that his government would be fully committed to pushing forward with the political talks to reach final peace agreement.

There have been a string of partial peace agreements in the

past, starting with one signed in Abuja, Nigeria in 2006 that involved a single rebel leader and did nothing to stem the fighting. Comprehensive peace talks with the rebels broke down in 2007 with little movement for the next two years.

The U.N. estimates that some 300,000 people have died and 2.7 million have been displaced since ethnic African tribesman in the vast arid western Darfur region took up arms against the Arab-dominated central government complaining of discrimination, lack of political representation and neglect.

In a worrying sign for the success of further peace talks, the JEM representative in Doha, who already have signed a truce with the government, immediately condemned Thursday's agreement, saying



Sudan's government representative Ghazi Salah Eddin Atabani, left, and rebel leader Al-Tijani Al-Sissi hold the documents after signing a truce in Doha Thursday March 18, 2010. Sudan's government and a collection of Darfur rebel groups have signed a cease-fire, opening the way for political negotiations ahead of a full peace agreement.

Associated Press

they had not been informed.

"We were surprised with this announcement, and this will cause more damage in Darfur," Ahmed Tugod told The Associated Press by phone. "We didn't send a representative and JEM is boycotting and concerned about the actions today."

JEM has said it would prefer to represent all rebel groups

in negotiations with the government. The group is militarily the most powerful of the rebels and in May 2008 mounted an audacious assault that took it to the gates of the Sudanese capital.

Elnur's SLM, meanwhile, has refused to negotiate with the government until it disarms its militias and all fighting ceases in the vast arid region. □

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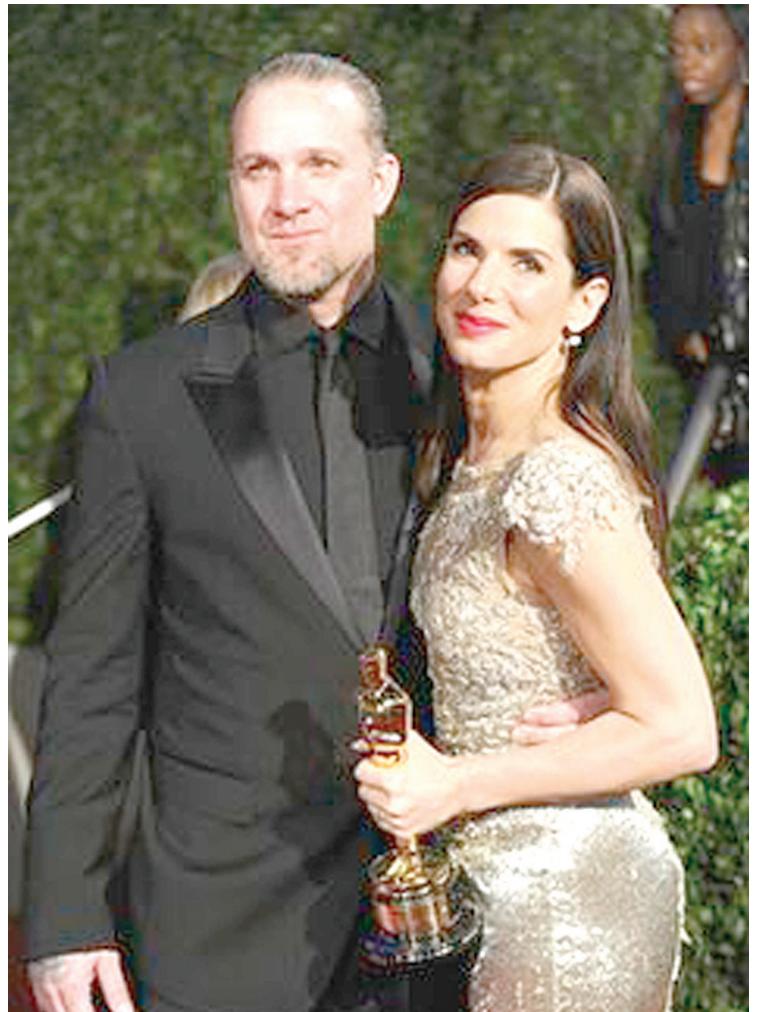


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Private drama plagues Oscar winner Sandra Bullock



FILE - Sandra Bullock and Jesse James arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar party on in this March 7, 2010 file photo taken in West Hollywood, Calif. Sandra Bullock has canceled her appearance at the London premiere of 'The Blind Side' scheduled for Tuesday March 23, 2010 almost two weeks after winning a Best Actress Academy Award. In a statement released by Warner Bros UK., the 45-year-old actress says she can't attend the event for 'unforeseen personal reasons.'

(AP Photo/Peter Kramer, File)

By SANDY COHEN,
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES - Sandra

Bullock is on a career high. America's Sweetheart and "Miss Congeniality" was

repeatedly anointed as Hollywood royalty this year, sweeping awards season and capping it off with an Oscar for her role as a devoted mom in "The Blind Side."

But as this Tinseltown fairytale played out on camera, real-life drama may have been brewing behind the scenes. With worldwide attention on the brand-new Oscar winner — who first captured hearts as a brave bus passenger in 1994's "Speed" and went on to amass more than two dozen movie credits — Bullock is being dogged by tabloid reports of problems with her husband of nearly five years. Internet rumors surfaced Wednesday that the 45-year-old actress' husband, celebrity motorcycle builder and reality-TV star Jesse James, had been unfaithful while she was making her Oscar-winning film. Bullock subsequently canceled a planned appearance next week at the London premiere of "The Blind Side," citing "unforeseen personal reasons."

On Thursday, James apologized to his wife and three children from previous relationships through a statement issued to People magazine and later obtained by The Associated Press.

"It's because of my poor

judgment that I deserve everything bad that is coming my way," he said. "This has caused my wife and kids pain and embarrassment beyond comprehension and I am extremely saddened to have brought this on them."

He added that "the vast majority of the allegations reported are untrue and unfounded," but offered no other details, saying, "Beyond that, I will not dignify these private matters with any further public comment."

Representatives for Bullock did not respond to calls and e-mails seeking comment

Thursday.

Publicly, there was no indication of strife as the couple appeared happily arm-in-arm throughout Hollywood's awards season while Bullock racked up the accolades.

She called her husband "sexy" as she accepted her Screen Actor's Guild award. Backstage, he held her purse as she spoke to reporters.

At the Golden Globes, Bullock told James from the stage, her voice cracking with emotion: "There's no surprise that my work got better when I met you. Because I never knew what it felt like for someone to have my back."

Things were different at the Academy Awards.

Bullock did not thank her husband, who appeared teary-eyed on camera as she accepted her award. Instead she thanked mothers and parents everywhere — including a poignant tribute to her own mother — along with her fellow nominees and "everyone who's shown me kindness when it wasn't fashionable."

Still, Bullock and James, 40, walked hand-in-hand down Oscar's red carpet, celebrated together at the parties afterward and were photographed outside a Long Beach burger joint the next day.

The actress and the "Monster Garage" star met in 2003 and married in 2005. Initially deemed an odd match by some — she's the girl next door, he's a tattooed bad-boy — the couple stayed blissfully out of the public eye while continuing their individual successes.

Bullock had dated actors, including Matthew McConaughey and Ryan Gosling, and was engaged to Tate Donovan, but her marriage to James is her first. James had been married twice before and is in an ongoing dispute with his most recent ex-wife over custody of their 5-year-old daughter, Sunny. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



In this Wednesday, March 10, 2010 photo, a person looks for work at a job placement center in Menlo Park, Calif. Initial jobless claims have dropped to 457,000 but remained above levels that signal new hiring.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

Two-track economy: 9.7% unemployment, \$200K cars

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON – For the super-rich and everyone else, the economic recovery is taking place in two very different gears. A British company is betting there's a market in North America for a \$200,000 sports car built with Formula One race technology, announcing Thursday that it will unveil the very expensive new toy late next year.

"Following any recession, there's a resurgence," said Ron Dennis, chairman of McLaren Automotive. "We intend to catch that wave."

For most people, though, the economy's still a clunker. A new Labor Department report said more than 11 million Americans are now getting unemployment benefits.

The number of first-time claims for unemployment fell last week for the third time in a row, a sign the job market is slowly healing. But claims remain above levels that would signal the economy is actually generating new jobs.

There are other signs of the economic split:

- Luxury clothing stores outpaced others last month and brought in more money than expected. At Nordstrom, sales at stores open at least a year surged 10.4 percent. Sales only rose 2.4 percent at Target, and 1.2 percent at J.C. Penney.

- Business at high-end hotels is coming back much faster than at mid-price or budget hotels, says Patrick Scholes, an analyst at FBR Capital Markets. Revenue at luxury hotels was up 7.7 percent last week from a year ago. At less fancy hotels, revenue fell.

- While overall U.S. auto sales were up 13 percent for February, luxury brands did even better. Revenue rose 32 percent for General Motors' Cadillac brand, nearly 14 percent for BMW and 17 percent for Honda's Acura. Sales of the Lexus were up 5 percent while overall sales at Toyota fell because of widespread recalls.

Confidence in the economy has risen most among wealthier Americans, said Jonathan Basile, an economist at Credit Suisse. Rising stock prices are helping: The S&P 500 index has surged more than 70 percent since its bottom last spring. □

Stocks end mixed after price, jobs reports

By STEPHEN BERNARD
and TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK – Major stock indexes ended mixed Thursday on more evidence that the economy is regaining strength at a slow pace.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose for an eighth straight day, its longest unbroken climb since August. The Dow gained 46 points while broader indexes were little changed.

Reports indicated that inflation remains in check and manufacturing is growing. The government said, however, that first-time claims for unemployment benefits only inched lower.

The Labor Department said its Consumer Price Index was unchanged in February and that initial jobless claims fell last week. Meanwhile, the Philadelphia Federal Reserve said manufacturing in its region increased this month. The Conference Board, a private research group, said its index of leading indicators rose at a slow pace last month. "The market has been grinding higher on what has been benignly positive news," said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist for RidgeWorth Investments. "There is a growing sense the economy is plodding along in the right direction."

Renewed concern about economic troubles in Greece kept the gains in check. The country said it might turn to the International Monetary Fund for support if European leaders can't agree to a bailout plan next week.

Stocks have been in a steady climb for about five weeks as economic reports signal the economy is seeing modest improvement.

The Dow rose 45.50, or 0.4 percent, to 10,779.17. That marks the highest close since



FILE - In this Tuesday, March 16, 2010 file photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Stocks are trading in a narrow range Thursday, March 18, after a fresh batch of economic reports showed the economy continues to slowly regain its strength.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File)

Oct. 1, 2008. The Dow last rose for eight straight days in the period ended Aug. 27.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 0.38, or less than 0.1 percent, to 1,165.83, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 2.19, or 0.1 percent, to 2,391.28.

Bond prices fell and yields rose following the economic reports. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.68 percent from 3.64 percent late Wednesday.

The dollar rose against other major currencies. Gold rose. Crude oil fell 73 cents to settle at \$82.20 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The Labor Department's Consumer Price Index was flat. Excluding volatile energy and food prices, it rose 0.1 percent. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters forecast an increase of 0.1 percent in both measures of inflation. On Wednesday, the government said that wholesale prices

barely rose in February. The Federal Reserve repeated this week that it expects inflation to remain low. That would allow the central bank to keep interest rates low to help revive lending and boost the economy. The Labor

Department said that initial jobless claims fell by 5,000 to a seasonally adjusted 457,000 last week. Although the drop was short of expectations, it was the third straight weekly slide. A four-week average of claims is up by 30,000 since the beginning of the year.

Initial claims have hovered around 450,000 in recent weeks, which Gayle called a "tipping point" between employers adding or cutting jobs.

Companies like 3M Co. got a boost from the Philadelphia Fed's report that manufacturing expanded in the Mid-Atlantic region for the seventh straight month in March. However, a drop in new orders signaled growth could slow.

The Conference Board's index of leading indicators rose 0.1 percent in February. That matched expectations but the increase in the gauge of future economic activity was the smallest in 11 months.

The concerns about Greece brought a reminder that the calm can be interrupted.

"That's why you're seeing a little bit of resistance," said Greg Merlino, president of Ameriway Financial Services. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



NBA Roundup

Cavaliers clinch division outright

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James had 32 points, nine rebounds and nine assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers clinched consecutive outright Central Division championships and the third in team history, beating Indiana 99-94 on Wednesday night.

Cleveland (54-15) is the first team this season to clinch its division.

After Cleveland's 18-point lead was cut to one, James had six points, two blocks, two steals and an assist in the final 4 minutes, including a dunk behind his head after catching an alley-oop pass from Anderson Varejao. Troy Murphy had 19 points and 15 rebounds, and Roy Hibbert had 20 points for Indiana.

Mavericks 113, Bulls 106

At Dallas, Caron Butler scored 27 points, Dirk Nowitzki had 26, and J.J. Barea scored 10 straight when things tightened up in the fourth quarter for Dallas.

Dallas had three days off since ending a 13-game winning streak with a 34-point loss to New York.

Continued on Page 14



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, right, is fouled by Indiana Pacers' Roy Hibbert in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 17, 2010, in Cleveland. James scored 32 points with nine rebounds and nine assists in the 99-94 win.

Associated Press



In this April 8, 2009, file photo, Tiger Woods smiles during his practice round for the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga. Woods intends to remain out of golf at least until the Masters, two people with knowledge of his plans have told The Associated Press on Thursday, March 11, 2010. The two people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because only Woods is supposed to release such information, say he is likely to play first at Augusta National in April.

Associated Press

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Sports Columnist

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Oddsmakers didn't take long to make Tiger Woods the Masters favorite. Even his fellow competitors say they can see him trying on another green jacket. They're expecting the Tiger of old at Augusta National. That

might be because it's the only Tiger they know.

I say he'll be lucky to make the cut.

It's not just the five months he has gone without hitting a shot for real, though that surely can't help. Woods will be rusty, and the Masters is not a place to try to fine tune your game.

Tiger's aura gone, probably for good

No, it's because the Woods saga is a story that has morphed into a lot more than just the tale of a man who pretended to be something he wasn't. Once one of the most esteemed athletes in the world, he's now a soap opera-like figure whose last scripted apology clearly showed he has a lot more left to accomplish in his 12-step rehabilitation program.

He'll go to Augusta still stinging from the pasting he's taken from the tabloids and the late-night shows since crashing his car Thanksgiving night. He'll go there vulnerable and, for the first time, unsure what kind of reception he'll get. The media will want to ask him questions. The fans will want him to act contrite. Kind of hard to swagger down

the fairway and say you're sorry at the same time.

Unfortunately for Woods, it's a new game. He will tee it up on No. 1 the Thursday of the Masters with more questions swirling about him than the first time he played there as an amateur 14 years ago.

At least then we knew the answers. The kid was good and there was something about him that screamed greatness. The aura grew over the years, as did the collection of green jackets. Now it's shattered for good.

The Woods we once knew seemed to enjoy sending his opponents broken and trembling to the scrap heap almost as much as he enjoyed picking up the winner's check.

The Woods we know now — wait! We still don't know who he is, do we?

"We have all put him up on such a pedestal, not only in the golf, but we took for granted the personal side, too," golf's No. 2 player Steve Stricker said Wednesday. "We'll have to wait and see what the golf brings when he comes back. This may fire him up even more and make him even stronger." Hard to imagine that. The first glare may come not when he runs in a long putt to get into contention, but when someone screams out the name of mistress No. 5 in his backswing. Who is going to fear a guy who spent the last two months confessing every failing of his life to a group of strangers? □

NHL Roundup

Elias has goal, assist as Devils sweep Penguins

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Patrik Elias scored a breakaway goal and set up another as the New Jersey Devils beat a sloppy Pittsburgh Penguins 5-2 on Wednesday to complete a six-game season sweep of their Atlantic Division rivals.

New Jersey now shares first-place with the Penguins on 87 points, but the Devils have played one fewer game. Fans chanted "You can't beat us!" as the final seconds ticked down.

Elias assisted on Dainius Zubrus' brilliant goal in the first period that got New Jersey even, and scored in the middle frame on New Jersey's second breakaway during the same Penguins power play. That gave the Devils a 3-1 lead.

Defenseman Paul Martin returned to the lineup after missing 59 games because of a broken forearm and added a goal for the Devils in the first. Zach Parise's 33rd made it 4-1 and chased goalie Marc-Andre Fleury to the bench.

Chris Kunitz scored for the Penguins.

At Denver, Rene Bourque scored two goals and Vesa Toskala made 32 saves as Calgary beat Colorado to stay in the Western Conference playoff race. Eric Nystrom also scored for the Flames, who are in ninth place with 79 points, one point behind idle Detroit for the final postseason spot with 12 games left.

Chris Durno and Milan Hejduk scored and Craig Anderson had 31 saves for

Colorado, which had won three straight.

Colorado had won six in a row against Calgary dating back to last season.

At Anaheim, California, Saku Koivu scored the go-ahead goal with 5:36 left in the third period, Todd Marchant had a short-handed goal and Bobby Ryan notched his 30th and 31st goals to lead Anaheim past Chicago.

The Central Division-leading Blackhawks began a three-game road trip without three-time All-Star defenseman Brian Campbell, who is out with a fractured collar bone and broken rib after he was checked into the boards from behind by NHL scoring leader and two-time MVP Alex Ovechkin.



New Jersey Devils' Paul Martin celebrates his goal with teammates as he comes back to the bench during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins, Wednesday, March 17, 2010, in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

Brent Seabrook and Marian Hossa scored for Chicago, and Corey Crawford made 32 saves after getting called up from Rockford of the AHL.

In other NHL matches around the league: New Jersey 5, Pittsburgh 2; Calgary 3, Colorado 2; and Anaheim 4, Chicago 2. □

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Lindsey Vonn returns to new level of fame



Skier Lindsey Vonn gestures during an interview in New York, Thursday, March 18, 2010. The American returned from the ski season to discover she's now a celebrity in her home country after her dramatic Olympic gold medal performance in Vancouver.

Associated Press

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the world's most dominant athletes finally gets recognized on the streets of New York. Her triumphant ski season over, Lindsey Vonn returned to her home country to discover a strange new phenomenon. "I get that in Europe, but it's so bizarre—and great, though—to experience that in the U.S.," Vonn told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Perhaps it has something to do with all the pre-Olympic buzz about how Vonn was going to be the star of the Vancouver Games, then the drama of a shin injury that threatened to quash her hopes, and finally that joyous celebration when

she won the elusive gold medal in her first race.

Her fame creates the opportunity to do a lot of "cool stuff," as Vonn put it, which will keep her busy for the next few weeks. But all that hype and hurt and happiness is also exhausting, and that has Vonn looking forward to late April, when she'll finally take some time off.

"I feel like now that the Olympics are over, I can just take a deep breath and really recharge," Vonn said. "I want to keep pushing strong for the next four or five years, however much longer I would choose to go for. You really need at least one good year when you're having not as much to do in the springtime,

because our seasons are so long. ... It's tough to always be pushing through, especially with injuries. The Olympics and world championships are always a really stressful time. "So this is really important for me to get rested up enough so I'm really excited to ski again come winter."

Vonn will return to the gym in mid-May, but she expects she'll spend only two weeks training in Austria this offseason instead of the month she did last year. She's hoping to visit her in-laws in Florida and play some relaxing golf once that long-awaited vacation comes next month.

But first, there's much to do, which will have Vonn shuttling among New York,

Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. She'll be working with sponsors such as Procter & Gamble, attending fashion events, even getting a dress made for her by designer Tory Burch.

And the best part: "Law & Order" creator Dick Wolf heard she was a big fan of the show, so he cast her in an episode.

Vonn will be home in Vail, Colo., for a few days starting later this week before hitting the road again. Her many injuries don't bother her much as long as she's not skiing. The bruised right knee gets a little sore when she walks too much, and the broken right pinkie hurts sometimes when she shakes hands. □

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NBA ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 12

The Mavericks bounced back strong, making nearly 70 percent of their shots well into the third quarter, then let Chicago turn it into a game. Dallas native Acie Law scored a season-high 22 points for the Bulls. Chicago, wearing green uniforms for St. Patrick's Day, lost its ninth straight.

Bobcats 100, Thunder 92

At Charlotte, Stephen Jackson scored 18 of his 20 points in the second half as the Bobcats rallied to beat Oklahoma City to give Michael Jordan a victory in his first game as Bobcats majority owner.

In other NBA games it was, Charlotte 100, Oklahoma City 92; Cleveland 99, Indiana 94; Toronto 106, Atlanta 105; Philadelphia 108, New Jersey 97; Boston 109, New York 97; Orlando 110, San Antonio 84; Dallas 113, Chicago 106; Houston 107, Memphis 94; Utah 122, Minnesota 100; Golden State 131, New Orleans 121; and L.A. Clippers 101, Milwaukee 93. □

Mayweather, Mosley embrace Olympic-style drug test

DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Floyd Mayweather Jr. and welterweight champion Shane Mosley will undergo Olympic-style drug testing for their May 1 fight in Las Vegas, which they hope will set a new standard for boxing.

Representatives of the two fighters joined Travis Tygart of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency on a conference call Thursday to discuss the program, which is more extensive than the testing that currently falls under the jurisdiction of state athletic commissions.

"This is one of the biggest events I've seen in the sport of boxing, and if this introduces Olympic-style testing to boxing, we not only have delivered a great fight but also leveled the field for athletes," Richard Schaefer of Golden Boy Promotions said.

Mayweather and Mosley will be subjected to an unlimited number of unannounced blood and urine tests before and after the fight, and the results will be stored so USADA can test them in the future. The samples are screened for all drugs currently banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency, including human growth hormone and designer steroids such as THG.

Most state athletic commissions test only urine samples, which Tygart said cannot detect several performance-enhancing substances, including HGH.

"For the first time, you have professional athletes in the sport of boxing approaching us to implement an anti-doping program," Tygart said. "These athletes are courageous in their position and their desire to be held to the most stringent anti-doping standard."

Mayweather's insistence on Olympic-style testing is the primary reason negotiations fell through in January for a fight against pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao. Mayweather wanted blood tests up to 14 days before the fight, while Pacquiao claims he feels weak after drawing blood and would not agree to testing within 24 days.

Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum accused Mayweather of trying to get into his fighter's head by alleging that he used steroids. The negotiations quickly deteriorated, and Pacquiao signed to fight Joshua Clottey while Mayweather turned his attention to Mosley.

"With Floyd being the face of boxing, this is something that he has wanted to put forth," said Mayweather's adviser, Leonard Ellerbe. "Every fight from this point on that anybody steps into the ring with him will be subjected to this."

That begins with Mosley, who has acknowledged using steroids before a victory over Oscar De La Hoya in 2003. The four-time world champion claims he did so inadvertently through a strength and conditioning

coach with connections to BALCO, the center of the scandal that enmeshed Barry Bonds and several other high-profile athletes.

Mosley filed a defamation lawsuit against Victor Conte after the BALCO founder said the boxer knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs.

"I want to be clear that Shane would not be doing this if there were any doubt in his mind that he's a clean athlete," said Mosley's lawyer, Judd Burstein. "Shane has never denied, right from the start, he made a mistake with respect to trusting Victor Conte."

"Shane is doing this, and Floyd is to be congratulated for being on the forefront here, but Shane didn't hesitate because he knows he's a clean athlete."

Tygart said USADA, which has been involved in the BALCO investigation, discussed the Mosley case before agreeing to implement its drug-testing program.

"You have to remember that professional boxing entities that had jurisdiction over him at the time did not bring any discipline over those allegations or any others," Tygart said. "If those allegations were ever proven to be true and he was sanctioned, he would have served his time by this point and would be eligible to compete."

While the two fighters have agreed to the more rigorous testing for their bout at the



Floyd Mayweather, left, and current WBA welterweight world champion Shane Mosley pose for a picture during a news conference in New York, Tuesday, March 2, 2010. The news conference was to promote their May 1, 2010 fight in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Associated Press

MGM Grand, it will ultimately come down to whether sanctioning bodies and state athletic commissions choose to recognize punishments that USADA might impose.

That could include a two-year ban for a failed test.

"At the end of the day, USADA has no jurisdiction," Keith Kizer, executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission, told The Associated Press. "Like any medical test, if a fighter wants to do anything more than what we require, more power to them."

Kizer said fighters can petition the commission to change its drug testing protocol, and Arum was open to doing that in December, before negotiations for Pacquiao-Mayweather unraveled.

Schaefer took that option to Mayweather's team, but Kizer said they never responded.

"At the end of the day, this is about Pacquiao-Mayweather, and we're not going to change our policies to help one fighter get a mind-game edge or another edge over another fighter," Kizer said. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

No.13 Murray State stuns No.4 Vanderbilt in NCAA opener

By JANIE McCUALEY

AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Murray State coach Billy Kennedy went with his gut and drew up a play his team had never run before, with Isacc Miles the go-to guy at the end. Third option Danero Thomas became the hero instead.

Thomas hit a 15-footer as the buzzer sounded and 13th-seeded Murray State stunned No. 4 seed Vanderbilt 66-65 on Thursday in an NCAA tournament opener in the West Regional.

"That shot was bigger than he could imagine," Murray State's B.J. Jenkins said. "It wasn't just a game-winning shot. We'll remember this for the rest of our lives."

President Barack Obama must have been onto something picking these revved-up Racers (31-4) to get past the first round. It was the school's first victory in the NCAA tournament since a 78-75 win over North Carolina State in 1988.



Murray State forward Danero Thomas, right, gets off the game-winning shot over Vanderbilt guard Lance Goulbourne (5) as the clock winds down in the second half of an NCAA first-round college basketball game in San Jose, Calif., Thursday, March 18, 2010. Murray State defeated Vanderbilt 66-65. Looking on is Vanderbilt guard Jeffery Taylor (44).

Associated Press

For the second time in as many appearances, Vanderbilt (24-9) bowed out early as the higher seed. The Commodores were also a first-round upset victim by Siena in 2008 when seeded fourth.

Murray State, the mid-major that came in with a dismal 1-13 all-time NCAA tournament record, will play again Saturday at HP Pavilion against the winner of UTEP-Butler.

Jermaine Beal made two free throws with 12.7 seconds left to give Vandy the lead. B.J. Jenkins missed a rushed 3-pointer on the other end, but the ball went out of bounds off a Vanderbilt player with 4.2 seconds left to give Murray State the final shot.

When it went down, Murray

State's players sprinted to the other end of the floor and fell into a celebratory pile beneath the basket. Vandy star A.J. Ogilvy slumped to the floor in defeat, while his teammates crouched near their bench in utter disbelief.

"This is probably the biggest shot I've ever hit in my life," said Thomas, who wound up with 11 points, six rebounds, three steals and three blocked shots. "It felt so good, I knew it was going in."

Vandy knew it could happen. The Commodores have been in this tough position before.

"This is what happens in March Madness," freshman guard John Jenkins said. "I didn't think it was going to happen and I had no doubt

we were going to win that game. We had a hand in his face, and it was a tough shot."

B.J. Jenkins hit a key 3-pointer with 2:51 to play and finished with 14 points and five assists, and Miles scored 17 for the Racers, who shot 7 for 15 from long range and crashed the offensive glass to create second chances. They held a 39-33 rebounding advantage — 15 of those offensive boards.

The Commodores were set on repeating their special March run in California from 2007, when they reached the regional with a 78-74, double-overtime win over Washington State in the second round two hours northeast in Sacramento.

Vanderbilt used a 7-0 burst

to build a 60-56 lead with 3:46 left this time, getting five straight points from John Jenkins. Isaiah Canaan and B.J. Jenkins then hit consecutive 3s for Murray State to regain the lead.

Vandy's Festus Ezeli missed a pair of free throws off the front of the rim with 2:28 remaining — and the misses proved costly.

No Vanderbilt player reached double digits until Beal had 10 points with 17:21 left. He didn't score again until making the late free throws, finishing with 12. John Jenkins scored 13 and Ogilvy had 12 points and six rebounds.

B.J. Jenkins, who banged his right elbow on the floor early in the game, showed no effects from slicing the index finger on his non-shooting hand while cutting down the net from the Ohio Valley Conference tournament. He shot 6 for 14 and made two 3s.

Miles, the one-time Creighton player who played for that school in the 2007 NCAAs as a freshman, has given Murray State a big lift — not to mention a place on the national map. Many joined President Obama in choosing Murray State in their brackets.

"They can say it was an upset, but we've got a good team," Kennedy said. "They're a very good team. We've got good toughness and good character. It definitely wasn't about a coach drawing up a great play. It just goes by what the feel is. I wanted to put it in Isacc Miles' hands because I trust him to make plays." □



LOCAL

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Friday, March 19, 2010

2010 a Big Year for Team Aruba; Ready to Battle at Houston

ORANJESTAD - Look out, Houston! Team Aruba is set to explode the Houston Raceway track this year at the 2010 Universal Technical Institute Dragpalooza VI in late March. In an extreme game of 'now you see them, now you don't', Team Aruba will thrill drag racing fans as they tear down the 1/8th mile track at Houston Raceway Park in their colorful, Caribbean-inspired car on March 20th. Trevor Eman of Team Aruba is excited for the big event. "We just tested down in Bradenton, Florida, running a 4.06 on the 1/8th mile track." The team also ran their best elapsed time of 6.26 at 223mph on the 1/4 mile track. Trevor, looking forward to Dragpalooza VI, is optimistic about the 2010 season. "Our run at Bradenton makes us very competitive in the Extreme Pro Stock category. We're feeling pretty confident right now." Eman, currently studying mechanical engineering at the University of Central Florida, plans to make drag racing a full-time career after college graduation. In 2009, Eman qualified 9 out of 10 races, and was runner-up in a very close race at the Bradenton Street Nationals Pro Street division. "Our ultimate goal this year," Eman envisions, "is placing in the top 8th—to be contenders at the Battle for the Belts later this year." With the sponsorship support of Aruba's official tourism website, www.Aruba.com and associate sponsor Digicel Aruba, Eman, racing for Team Aruba since 2007, feels confident that 2010 will be a great year for his team. "We're all working hard and expecting great results." Fans can tune into the Versus Network on Sundays at 3pm ET for comprehensive race coverage of Team Aruba. Be sure to check Team Aruba's website, www.teamaruba.com for exclusive photos, news updates, and behind the scenes footage. Fan can also follow Team Aruba on Facebook to view exclusive video, see upcoming events, and discuss Team Aruba with fellow fans. □

Aruba looks back at a joyous (and wet) National Day celebration



ORANJESTAD—Hundreds of children, uniformed officials and motorists had their opportunity to salute the Aruba government and invitees as part of the traditional celebration of Aruba's national day, the Flag and Anthem Day.

Aruba commemorated its national day with the customary ceremonies, which started with a cultural manifestation on Wednesday evening on Plaza Betico Croes in Oranjestad.

Continued on Next Page




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Aruba looks back at a joyous (and wet) National Day celebration



Continued from Page B1

The official observance took place yesterday and started with ceremonies at the Aruba Government Building, the Parliament, at the statue of late Henny Eman and then at the monument dedicated to Aruba autonomy movement, where the names of the over two thousand petitioners for Aruba's separation from the then Curaçao colony are engraved, right under the bust of Shon A Eman. The highlight of the ceremony was the event at the Plaza Betico Croes, and according to Prime Minister Mike Eman, it was

a proper way to honor those great Aruban statesmen who dedicated their lives to achieve Aruba's greatest wish, namely to be able to determine its own future, as an autonomous country.

The Trupialen Choir and the Aruba Philharmonic Orchestra entertained the public, who despite the unexpected rain shower, gathered at the Plaza early in order to get a good view of the festivity. The formal start was marked with the arrival of the dignitaries from the Netherlands Antilles, followed by the arrival of the members of the Aruba

Government. Prime Minister Mike Eman started his own tradition, and walked most of the route, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Doina Eman, greeting the public who were gathered at the side of the road. His Excellency Governor Fredis Refunjol and his Antillean colleague Mr. Frits Goedgedrag, and their spouses arrived as last.

The first speaker was the Minister of Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs Mrs. Michelle Hooyboer Winklaar. Mrs. Hooyboer Winklaar highlighted the positive of the celebration, and also of the community in general. But she also chose to shine light on things that are not going that well, in particular related with the youth. She pointed out it is not only a responsibility of the government to ensure our youngsters are well educated and well equipped for the future, but also a task of, first of all, parents and the community in general. The Minister also urged the Aruban community to remain open for

people of all backgrounds as this has made our island stand out within the region.

Prime Minister Eman as usual spoke from the heart. He said Aruba's strength comes from above, a strength that was personified by his own political ancestors, his grandfather Henny Eman and his late father, Shon A Eman and also late Betico Croes, who dedicated their lives for the achievement of Aruba's Separate Status within the Kingdom. Prime Minister Eman spoke about the unity of Aruba's diversified community and challenges ahead that could only be overcome with dedication. The final part of the ceremony was the parade of uniformed groups, including the Aruban military and police, followed by all the scout groups in Aruba, where hundreds of leaders, teens and children showed that there are movements here dedicated to the well being of children in particular. Athletes gave demonstration of discipline, while the Harley Davidson

riders club and the antique cars clubs provided the excitement, showing off the might of their engines, the beauty of their vehicles and the enthusiasm of their members. It was also the last time that representatives of the Netherlands Antilles formed part of the celebration here. Prime Minister Emily de Jongh Elhage, President of the Antillean Parliament Pedro Atacho were among the dignitaries from the Kingdom who joined Aruba in the official ceremonies. According to Mrs. De Jongh Elhage, it was an emotional experience to see the passion Arubans have for their country. But it was also emotive for her knowing that next year there will not be a representative of the Netherlands Antilles in the Aruba National Day celebrations, if the objective of political autonomy for Curaçao and St. Maarten is indeed realized by 10th of October this year.

The three hour long ceremony was concluded with the traditional felicitations. □

Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona on Friday Night



ORANJESTAD - Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with this fantastic live show! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

Our Flamenco Show will be extended this Holiday Season with the performance of Kavey Yarzagaray. This Flamenco guitar player will perform together with Angela Croes on Friday night. This is a show that shouldn't be missed.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata

Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



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del Prado, and her team from Deloitte commenting on Optimizing Business Growth in Turbulent Times, through Equity Incentive. Also the executive team of

the Caribbean Mercantile Bank under the direction of Javier Wolter, including all account and credit managers. □

WEST PUNT — The Caribbean Mercantile Bank (CMB) hosted a series of breakfast seminars at Ventanas del Mar restaurant designed to educate and entertain corporate clients. The breakfasts provided food for thought and a great networking opportunity within the business community.

Xina Tromp who helped orchestrate the events on behalf of the bank reports breakfast at Ventanas del Mar is always special, and the newly renovated banquet room served the bank's purpose very well. Pictured here Kartini M.

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At the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa

CATA delegates sample Radisson's Spectacular Hospitality



PALM BEACH – More than 120 guests enjoyed the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa hospitality at a spectacular dinner party hosted on the beach in honor of CATA delegates, travel experts and tourism professionals on the island in attendance of the

Convencion Anual de Turismo de Aruba, the Annual Aruban Tourism Conference, which kicked off last Monday. CATA, dedicated to the Latin American travel market, and co-hosted by the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) in partnership with the Aruba



Hotel and Tourism Authority (AHATA), enjoyed the lovely evening, orchestrated to perfection by the Radisson Banquet & Event team.

The beach was decorated with lounge divans and colorful pillows, set on white carpets amid candles and fire urns, copper balls and an oversize ikebana aquarium centerpiece.

Elegant food, served family style, introduced novel and exciting dishes, conceived and prepared by executive chef Gerard Coste and his culinary brigade.

On the menu, the resort's signature cactus soup, seafood appetizers including lobster wrapped in prosciutto, southwest pinwheels and asparagus vinaigrette. Main courses, heated on bricks in the center of the table included Shrimp in Ginger, Korubuto Pork giant lollipops and market vegetables. The dessert, introduced Alejandro, the pastry chef's best selection of sweet sensations, to the music of the Cherries, under the starry night sky.

Pictured here the local conference organizers, the executives of ATA & AHATA, joined by their guests, on the beach, with General Manager Rob Smith and his crew, as party hosts. □



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Annual CATA Event Kicks Off With Presentations At Aruba Marriott

Latin America Delegates Become Aruba Certified Experts



PALM BEACH – From March 15 – 19, the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) and Aruba Hotels and Tourism Association (AHATA) hosts the Conferencia Anual de Turismo di Aruba (CATA). Over 85 delegates of Latin America including 50 tour operators and 6 airline companies were present at the conference.

On March 16, the Aruba Marriott hosted the CATA group with registration for the conference, followed by the Aruba Certified Expert (ACE) presentation for the delegates. Directors of the Aruba Tourism Offices of Brazil, Colombia and Argentina shared their market updates and numbers. Sales Manager Roosje Jacobs of the Aruba Marriott then took the opportunity to invite the participants with a site of the resort, showcasing the \$50 million overhaul the resort has undergone followed by a special lunch in the Grand Ballroom. In the afternoon all Aruba's hotel partners met with the Venezuelan tour operators to discuss the future plans for 2010, projecting the market in Venezuela.

The CATA conference ended on Friday March 19.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-

high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. Luxury hotel-within-a-hotel Tradewinds Club is the newest addition to this beachfront resort.

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*Fair Trade bridal couple is on the island
Celebrities in the making love
The Boardwalk Resort*



BAKVAL - Wanda Freeke (35) and Calech Brandsen (37) were planning to get married in 2009 when they happened to win the contest of 'Fair Trade Bridal Couple'. The two were selected out of 300 couples who entered the contest, which entailed getting their entire wedding and honeymoon to Tanzania paid for. Fair Trade is the organization which fights for reasonable prices for products from across the world; in Holland the name is the Max Havelaar Stichting.

The couple from Breda is greatly anticipating the hoopla that will surround their upcoming nuptials in May. "I am getting a fantastic wedding dress made of 'approved' cotton and even my shoes need the Fair Trade stamp of approval before I am allowed to wear them," laughs an excited Wanda.

The wedding ceremony will be performed in Amsterdam by Dutch celebrity Jos Brink. Afterwards, there is a dinner in a Fair Trade restaurant, where chefs are taught how to cook with Fair Trade products. And then there will be a huge party on a tall ship, sailing the IJ river up and down.

Their televised wedding will make Wanda and Calech instantly famous in the Netherlands. For now, however, they were just enjoying the peace and quiet of Aruba. Photo shows residential cat 'Doorcat' (instead of doormat) lying in her customary place right in front of The Boardwalk's entrance, regally accepting the attention from Wanda and Calech, who were on the island for a few days on a business trip. They loved The Boardwalk Boutique Hotel in Bakval!

HUMAN HINTS

Declare Your Facts Into Reality

A powerful technique for focusing our thoughts and emotions on the big-picture goal, is to declare your desires as a fact, out loud with confidence, numerous times each day. Make it a short, simple statement of ten words or less, stating as a direct fact, that your desires have come true. I am abundant in every aspect of my life. I feel Love from everyone in my life. I am open to recognize and accept Unconditional Infinite Abundance in every aspect of my life.

Phrasing and semantics can make a difference in the energy behind the statement, so be clear on what you are stating. If you declare, "I want ...", you are focusing on the desire. You are stating that you want, so your life will make sure you don't have. The less you have, the more you want. Your life will make sure you don't have, so you will be able to want, just like you stated.

If, on the other hand, you state that you are abundant, your life will follow your commands. State your desire as a fact that has already happened. Your life must follow your commands.

Your voice is powerful, so always be aware of what you say. When you speak, your voice resonates within your skull and your liquid brain understands the vibrations. Since this is where the hologram is generated, spoken words change the hologram at a fundamental level. When words come out of your mouth, the vibration of the sounds affect all things, like many pebbles thrown onto a still pond, each ripple affects the next.

The vibration of your voice declaring a fact about your own life will affect the vibration of your hologram. Your life will have no choice but to follow your commands and become what you desire.

It also changes your attitude because if you say it enough, you'll start to believe it. The moment you fully believe what you are saying at an emotional level, it will become manifest in your life.

Emotional knowing is a major key to manifestation. It is easy for us to understand something logically, but to know something on an emotional level is completely different. To create something, you can't act as if it's happened, because most of us would go broke acting as if we had money when we didn't. In order to manifest a thing in your life, you must FEEL as if it's already happened.

State your desire as fact, out loud with confidence, as many times a day as possible without the people around you thinking you're a lunatic. It is also very powerful to repeat your phrase over and over in your mind. You will train your hologram generator to reflect whatever fact you declare.

Be patient with the time delay for three dimensional manifestation. It doesn't matter to us when or how it will happen. What matters is that we stay focused and state these facts daily. Time will take care of the rest.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a series of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.



"Dinner is almost ready..."

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

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STEINFELD: 'MAGIC LIVE!' Theater-of-illusions show... now at the WESTIN - Aruba, see it live! 9pm nightly NightMagic-Comedy- Master of illusions. PREPARE to Witness TOP-Class Illusions, Magic & Comedy on Stage. Adam Steinfeld's Magic Live!® show, at the WESTIN - Aruba... 'Sensational!', 'Amazingly Funny!'...the Hottest ticket in Town! A Must See" 'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic!' - Carol Butz, Belair, Maryland.

'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-

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 Tickets: at the door
 Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
 Group Sales: 561-1090
 website: www.MagicLive.com
 Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

La Cabana Holds a Patriotic Event



EAGLE BEACH – La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club hosted a Patriotic Parade, on the eve

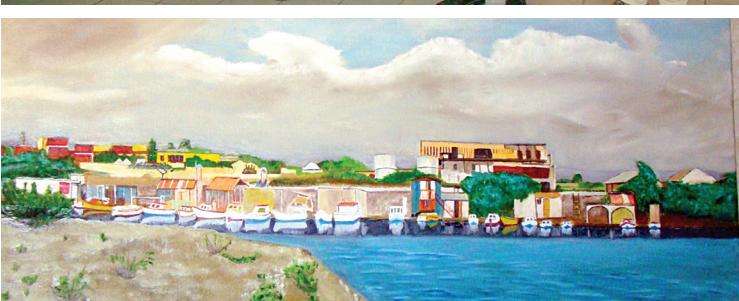
of Aruba's Flag & Anthem Day celebration.

The 2009 Associate of the

Year, Giovanni Britten, the 2009 Supervisor of the Year, Clara Acevedo, the 2009 Manager of the Year, Nilda Echobardo, together with Vocalists Greta de Cuba & Mathilde Benito both won the Karaoke Festival Winners for 2009, were honored together with La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club Carnival Queen, Alexandra Werleman, to parade the flags from the lobby of the resort to the Captain's Table restaurant who the official festivities took place.

The Patriotic Event was emceed by Rina Maduro-Geerman, under the watchful eye of the dedicated President of the Social Committee, Carine Cratz.

The program included reverence for the Aruba Flag, carried by Giovanni, the Aruba Anthem sung by Greta & Mathilde, a poem by the recreation team titled Aruba Dushi Tera y Su Brisa Tropical, the iconography on Aruba's Flag, a song by the Engineering Musical Group, a poem Regalo di Bo Yiu Adopta, by Enrique Aaron, another song by the Engineering Musical Group and an open invitation to visit the Art & Crafts Expo just before the festive conclusion over chuculati pinda and pan boyo, traditional hot chocolate and bread pudding. □



At the Playa Linda Beach Resort

Timeshare owners enjoy a beachside celebration of St. Patrick's Day



PALM BEACH - The curious combination of palm fronds and four-leaf clovers delighted fellow beachgoers whose attention was immediately drawn to the gayly decorated, green garlanded beach hut at the Playa Linda Beach Resort. Long-time guests and timeshare owners Richard and Pat Stone and Walter and Beverlee Adamski once again remembered to bring their party spirit to Aruba with an annual celebration of St. Patrick's Day on the beach.

"We don't just vacation in Aruba, we live here for the month we are here, and we enjoy our time with our Playa Linda neighbors," explains Walter Adamski as he sits under the decorated beach hut surrounded by friends and multiple generations of both the Adamaski and Stone clan. Although none of the St. Patrick's Day revelers, in either family, can claim Irish lineage, they each possess a lively personality and a definite propensity for having fun.

"Tommorrow I will sing 'Aruba Dushi Tera,'" says Richard Stone on his plans of singing Aruba's national

anthem on Flag and Anthem Day.

"But today I am toasting the occasion of St. Pats with green Balashi beer."

Pat Stone, who is attributed with starting the tradition of St. Patrick's Day merriment on the beach close to twenty years ago, looks forward to sharing trips to Aruba, as well as more St. Patrick's Day celebrations, with her kids and grandkids for many more

years to come.

"We have it penciled into our calender each March," she remarks with a wide smile.

Both the Stone and the Adamski families will be heading back to their respective homes in Framingham, Massachusetts, at the end of this month, but can be counted on to be found in Aruba under "Chickee number 37" every March 17th. □



Tony Roma's is the island's headquarters for ribs!

Many restaurants claim to have the best ribs in the land, but only Tony Roma's world famous ribs continue to rack up taste awards from a variety of cities, regions, and countries across the globe. Tony Roma's Palm Beach brings this classic to Aruba.

Great ribs put Tony Roma's on the map, but the menu also features an array of flame-grilled favorites including steaks, seafood and chicken. The menu also serves up fresh salads, fantastic burgers and sandwiches, grilled fresh local fish, mouthwatering desserts and delicious appetizers - especially the popular, made-from-scratch Onion Loaf.

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Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant

Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

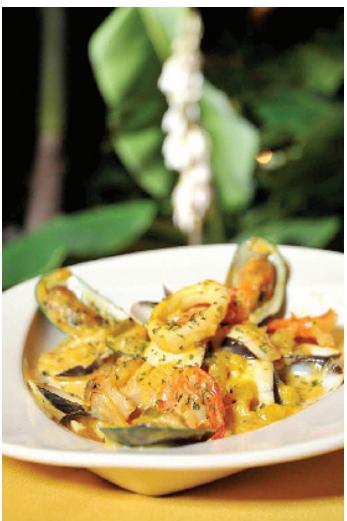
Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarlello, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like sate to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. "I simply love what



I do for a living," confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at www.pampamaruba.com. □

Curacao seeks good Venezuela ties despite spat

WILLEMSTAD, (Reuters) – The leader of the Dutch Antilles said a base on Curacao used by the United States was purely for anti-drugs operations though Venezuela has denounced its use for spying and even threatened to close a refinery.

"We have good relations with Venezuela. Sometimes President (Hugo) Chavez makes comments, the same as he does with the whole world, but for me, we have to move on," Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage said in an interview on Tuesday.

15th – 21st 2010

Aruba participates in the FIFA FUTURO III Referee Instructor's Course in St. Kitts & Nevis

The newly elected Minister of Sports the Honourable Glen Phillip officially opened the FIFA FUTURO III Referee Instructor's Course in a brief ceremony at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort. The event, which is being held under the auspices of the St. Kitts & Nevis Football Association (SKNFA) brings together over thirty participants from Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, BVI, Dominica, Grenada, Netherlands Antilles, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and host country St. Kitts & Nevis.

The course is being facilitated by FIFA's Referee Development Officer Mr. Ramesh Ramdhan and FIFA's Fitness Instructor Mr. Merere Gonzales of Trinidad and Tobago, and FIFA's Referee Instructor Mr. Peter Prendergast of Jamaica. FUTURO III courses use a regional format, assembling and educating instructors selected by the member associations from neighboring countries in a centralized venue. The selected instructors are then expected to impart the knowledge gained through course to the referees in their respective home country.

Attending the six day course from the Federation are Stuart Rawlins and Troy Mills of the St. Kitts Referees Association, Leroy Greene from the Nevis Football Association. In addition, Ms Judith Isles will be

She added that Curacao's aging, smoky Isla refinery remains vital to the Caribbean island but its operator, Venezuelan state oil firm PDVSA, has not kept a deal to clean it up.

"PDVSA should comply with the clauses in the rental contract it has with Isla. The contract specifies they should do regular maintenance and they have not always complied."

The complex, opened by Shell during World War I, puffs out clouds of toxins and contributes little to the island's tax income, but supports

many families through its 1,500 jobs.

A court on Curacao, the largest of the Dutch Antilles islands, last year ruled PDVSA must upgrade the refinery.

"The refinery must comply with the ecological norms prescribed by the law of our country," de Jongh-Elhage added.

PDVSA has in the past said it would like to buy Isla, which is built on the site of an old slave market on the island of 150,000 people 40 miles off the Venezuelan coast.

But relations have deteriorated

since Chavez last year said the Netherlands was complicit in allowing U.S. authorities use the Curacao base for flights to spy on Venezuela.

The comments by the Venezuelan leftist prompted his oil minister to say South America's top crude exporter was considering ending its contract with the refinery, which would effectively shut it down.

The oil minister, Rafael Ramirez, has now, however, softened his tone on that, saying earlier this week that Venezuela remained



"committed" to the refinery. De Jongh-Elhage, 63, said the U.S. base has been on the island for ten years. "The facilities are used to combat drug-trafficking. It is explicitly not a military base."

As an autonomous part of the Netherlands, rather than a fully independent country, all foreign policy decisions on the Dutch Antilles are made by The Hague, not the islanders.

The United States signed a series of deals in Latin America and the Caribbean to operate "Forward Operating Locations," or small bases at existing airfields, for anti-drugs operations following the closure of a large base in Panama in 1997.

De Jongh-Elhage said she had unsuccessfully tried to meet with Chavez's government and wanted to strengthen ties with Venezuela, the United States and all friendly nations.



Regional Referees pose with Gov't & FIFA officials

Assistant Mr. Newton George. CONCACAF and CFU are redoubling their efforts to improve the referees' development programs in the region in response to the declining numbers of referees from the region that are on the FIFA's list. Recently, the Referees Assistance Program

(RAP) was introduced to support referee development in the region. At the recently concluded Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Congress in Trinidad and Tobago, Refereeing was highlighted as one of the main areas of concern for the continued development of football in the region. □

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Blackman: More direct, aggressive approach to recruit St. Maarteners

The contract between the St. Maarten Government and Antillean and Aruban student association Passaat was signed in The Hague Monday.

THE HAGUE--St. Maarten is engaging in a more direct, aggressive approach to attract current and former students to return to their island to work for Government.

At the moment, 180 "critical" jobs are vacant, and there are attractive incentives for those who return, Commissioner of Finance, Personnel Affairs and ICT Xavier Blackman told current and former St. Maarten students during an informative session in The Hague Wednesday. The event was organised by St. Maarten Student Support Services S4. St. Maarten's Government currently has some 1,100 civil servants, but that number will have to increase by at least 400 when the island attains country status by October 10, 2010. To get people, Blackman decided to implement a different approach.

"We are not sitting back, waiting for recruits to come to us. We are going to them," he said.

The approach is more personal and appeals to the pride and patriotic feelings of St. Maarteners abroad, explained Blackman. "We are stressing on the opportunities that await you, to be part of history, building Country St. Maarten," he told the some 50 current and former students who attended the gathering.

As part of the strategy to recruit more St. Maarteners in the Netherlands, the Island Government signed a contract on Monday to be one of the two main sponsors of the Passaat Recruitment Days in Rotterdam on May 15 and 16. "We are going all out. We need our professionals to return home; we need young and enthusiastic talent," he said.

Government is teaming up with the St. Maarten Chamber

of Commerce and Industry to "create synergy advantages" and give people a broader choice.

The Island Government is offering incentives to those who want to return, including a partial waiving of study debt. Furthermore, Government is working on creating traineeships at the various different Dutch ministries, offering a candidate a job and training at the same time. Housing for those who return is important, acknowledged Blackman. He said that Government was working on this issue.

Blackman urged the St. Maarteners to make use of this "unique opportunity" to return home. "It is a great challenge that we will be facing and we need everyone on board. It would look interesting on your CV when it says that you were part of the team that built Country St. Maarten," he said.

After Blackman's introductory speech, in which he also briefly explained the constitutional trajectory, there was ample opportunity for questions. And there were many. Participants asked about the allocation of money on the budget to pay for the additional personnel, and they wanted to know how they could apply and make sure that their application was duly handled.

They had technical questions too: how much was the incentive, what did the traineeships imply, what were the possibilities for one's partner, when would they start working, would the new Government Administration Building suffice, and what if you already worked for Dutch Government?

Blackman patiently provided answers to the questions

where he could, but he also wasn't afraid to say that he didn't know all the details, as Government was still working out a number of aspects. He urged everyone present to consult the special Website that has been designed to publish the vacancies: www.pno.media.officelive.com.

According to the Commissioner, only some 10 per cent of the people applying through the Website were St. Maarteners, so far. This figure was disappointingly low and needed to increase, he said. Member of Dutch Parliament John Leerdam of the Labour Party PvdA, who also attended the session, stressed that the

vacancies somehow had to be filled and that if there were not enough St. Maarteners, others would have to come in and do the work. He referred to those present as "ambassadors," and urged them to help their island. "We have to ask ourselves what we can do for our country," he said.

Blackman stayed away from creating false impressions by promising the (former) students that they would automatically get a job when applying. "There are no guarantees," he said. The (former) students obviously appreciated the Commissioner's candid manner of providing information, and when he asked them whether they

considered sessions like these useful, they all responded with a "yes," and said they would like to have more.

Another information session takes place this evening, this time in Amsterdam. Blackman promised there would be more sessions in the near future. Commissioner William Marlin participated in two similar sessions late last year. Blackman will have a number of job interviews with candidates at the S4 office in Amsterdam Thursday and Friday before returning home Sunday. While in The Hague, he met with representatives of various Dutch ministries to arrange traineeship opportunities. □

Dutch territories offer Haitians temporary asylum

148 Haitians get permits for temporary immunity

COLE BAY--Haitians who could have qualified for Brooks Tower Accord (BTA) outnumbered two to one those who couldn't have, at the registration Monday for temporary immunity for Haitian men, women and children who live here illegally.

Central Government workers issued 98 temporary residence forms to Haitians who arrived before January 1, 2006, or couldn't prove when they had landed in the Netherlands Antilles. They must leave after August 31.

Another 50 persons who arrived between January 1, 2006, and January 12, 2010, can stay at least until December 31.

"We had hoped to help 200 people," said Netherlands Antilles Justice Ministry local coordinator Tiara Haselhoeft on Monday. Workers handed out 167 numbers on day one of a two-week registration campaign to save undocumented Haitians from repatriation for a few months. With copies of their passports, applicants have to show when they arrived in the Antilles. They also have to sign forms assuring that their applications are truthful, with the threat of immediate repatriation looming over anyone who is found trying to defraud the government.

Most received identity sheets stating they can stay in St. Maarten for a few months as the Central Government tries to balance its responsibility for immigration with the inhumanity of sending Haitians back to their disaster-struck island.

An estimated 200,000 Haitians perished in a January 12 earthquake that struck near the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince. International aid workers believe the island will need at least five years of help to rebound and start to develop. Governments and individuals have

promised and/or given hundreds of millions of dollars to the relief effort.

Haselhoeft said applicants had been orderly and the day hassle-free.

Workers saw a steady stream of people between 8:00am and 4:00pm. They will be registering persons for immunity every weekday until March 31.

Large-scale immigration controls have been suspended again until the registration ends.

"It went very easy with a really even number [of registrants]," Haselhoeft said, adding that by the end, "We're expecting like 2,000 persons."

Only Haitian passport-holders are eligible. Haselhoeft said special cases already had come up. In one case, a man born in Haiti, but naturalised in Santo Domingo, tried to register himself and his Haitian wife.

Haselhoeft said they had denied his request because, "We don't want other people coming in saying you let this other person have it." They will not be making exceptions for the registration.

The identity sheets grant Haitians the right to live in Dutch St. Maarten until the stipulated expiration date. They don't let them work here or receive social services. "They cannot derive any other right from this," Haselhoeft said.

Haselhoeft said: "One man got the sheet and asked what happens after this date, and we told him you have to leave."

Haitians who would have qualified for BTA, but didn't register, were allowed another five months in St. Maarten. Those who applied to the steering group in Category I and those who arrived after January 1, 2006, but before the earthquake, have another nine months. □



Chile: se anuncian unas 20 demandas por falla estatal en alerta de tsunami

SANTIAGO (AFP) - Familiares de unas 20 personas fallecidas demandarán a los funcionarios del Estado chileno que no alertaron a tiempo e incluso descartaron la llegada de un tsunami a las costas el pasado 27 de febrero tras el fuerte terremoto de magnitud 8,8 que provocó cientos de muertos.

“Hasta el momento he tomado contacto con familiares de al menos unas 20 víctimas de distintas partes del país golpeadas por el tsunami. Con ellos vamos a estudiar el tipo de acciones legales que tomaremos”, dijo este jueves a la AFP el abogado Alfredo Morgado, quien asumirá el caso.

Los primeros en demandar fueron dos hombres que junto a sus esposas pasaban vacaciones en el puerto sureño de Dichato, y huyeron a los cerros tras el terremoto de 8,8 grados del 27 de febrero, bajo



el entendido de que podría llegar pronto un tsunami.

No obstante tras escuchar por una radio un comunicado de la Oficina Nacional de Emergencia (Onemi) y

declaraciones de la entonces presidenta, Michelle Bachelet, que descartaban el tsunami, los cuatro volvieron a la casa. Luego vino la gran ola y mató a las dos mujeres.

Animados por esta medida,

lo que consideran como una negligencia.

Emilio Carreño, quien trabaja con Morgado en las demandas, aclaró a la AFP que “la demanda es contra personas naturales y no contra el Estado”.

Varias autoridades chilenas reconocieron fallas durante el procedimiento de alerta de tsunami la madrugada del 27 de febrero pasado tras el sismo de magnitud 8,8 y de hecho este tema ya provocó la salida del director del Servicio Oceanográfico de la Armada (SHOA), Edmundo González, y de la directora de la Onemi, Carmen Fernández.

La Fiscalía chilena investiga de oficio lo ocurrido en los servicios de información de emergencias y catástrofes, que fallaron en alertar a la población por el tsunami. La tragedia ha dejado un número de 800 muertos o desaparecidos, una cifra que podría ser revisada a la baja. □

Ecuador: no hay fecha para reunión con Colombia

QUITO (AP) — Una reunión entre autoridades de Ecuador y Colombia para avanzar hacia la normalización plena de las relaciones diplomáticas aún no cuenta con fecha definida y no podrá ser a “corto plazo”, dijo el jueves el canciller Ricardo Patiño.

En rueda de prensa, afirmó que “no se ha encontrado todavía una fecha en donde todos los calendarios (de las autoridades de ambas países) puedan coincidir, se había pensado en los últimos días de marzo, primeros días de abril, (pero) no va a ser posible”.

“Les digo con sinceridad, no veo que en un corto plazo esto (el encuentro) sea factible, no veo con optimismo que eso sea posible porque además del tema de las fechas, básicamente hay dificultades en encontrar acuerdos”, aseguró.

Patiño aclaró que no hay coincidencia en temas como aceptar “reserva sobre cierta información, nosotros necesitamos toda la información, el gobierno de Colombia no puede negarnos la información sobre los discos duros”. Fue una alusión a las computadoras incautadas al jefe guerrillero Raúl Reyes, muerto en suelo ecuatoriano en una incursión del ejército colombiano.

Ecuador rompió relaciones diplomáticas con Colombia en marzo del 2008 tras el ataque militar no autorizado de militares colombianos para atacar una base de la guerrilla colombiana que se había instalado clandestinamente.

La relación bilateral se encuentra en el nivel de encargados de negocios desde noviembre del año pasado. □

Brasil: Lula multado por campaña electoral anticipada

BRASILIA (AP) — El presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva fue condenado por un juez del Tribunal Superior Electoral (TSE) a pagar una multa por supuestamente anticipar la campaña electoral, informó el jueves la justicia.

El juez Joelson Dias aplicó la multa de 5.000 reales (2.840 dólares) por considerar que Lula hizo campaña proselitista en favor de la secretaria general del gobierno, Dilma Rousseff, durante una visita a la barriada pobre de Manguinhos, en Río de Janeiro, donde inauguró un centro deportivo el 29 de mayo del año pasado, según un comunicado del TSE.

Lula fue denunciado ante el TSE por el opositor Partido de la Social Democracia Brasileña (PSDB), que ha presentado numerosas denuncias contra el



popular mandatario por supuestamente apoyar la candidatura de Rousseff a la presidencia en actos públicos en todo el país.

El PSDB denunció también a la ministra, pero el juez consideró que no hay evidencias de que Rousseff hizo proselitismo durante la actividad. Después de analizar el discurso pronunciado por el gobernante en el evento, el juez señaló en su decisión

que “no se puede llegar a otra conclusión que la responsabilidad del primer acusado (Lula) por la práctica de propaganda electoral anticipada con la consecuente aplicación de multa”.

La ley electoral brasileña solo permite realizar actividades proselitistas a partir del 5 de julio, cuando se vence el plazo para el registro de los candidatos para las elecciones presidenciales de octubre. □

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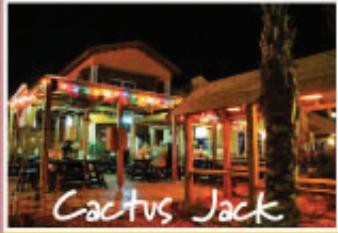


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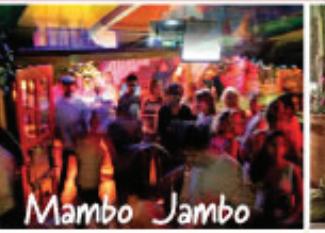
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